STANGE and TERRIBLE

NEWS

FROM

HOLLAND

Of a most Lamentable

TEMPEST

That happened at

UTRECHT and *AMSTERDAM*,

Which did not only Amaze the Inhabitants, but did also very great Damage to their Houses, blowing down an innumerable company of Tops of Houses and Chimnies, and utterly Destroyed one of their Cathedral Churches, and Rooted up many Trees.

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Strange and Wonderful News from Holland, *Both from* Utrecht *and* Amsterdam, *&c.*

ALthough the whole Universe throughout its Vast Circumference, be (as Naturalists excellently Phrase it) but one great Volume, wherein in visible effects of Power, the Invisible, former of all things, is too plainly legible, not to be discerned by all Eies; Yet in this great Folio, the Meteors, that is, the Clouds, Wind, Thunder, Comets, prodigious Flames, Earthquakes, and other wonderful Apparitions in the Elements, are the great Characters wherein his Divinity doth in the course of Nature most conspicuously declare it self.

For if we compare these amazing Phænomena with other works of Nature, we may justly pronounce that there he expresses himself in small, but here all in Capitals: And accordingly we may observe the Scripture to make these Regions of the Air which give

these Miscellaneous substances their Birth, to be as were the Sphere of Gods Armory, his great Storehouse and Magazine, from whence upon occasion of the Worlds wickedness, when ease and pleasure makes Mortals so insolent, as to question his Being, he takes out Artillery to Terrifie into a sense, those, who in the soft Whispers of a Calm and Serene Skie will not acknowledge him. For there are said to be the Treasures of his Chariots, there he utters that voice of his we call Thunder, and thence discharges the dreadful Shot of his right aiming Thunderbolts. And as we poor Mortals in Fleshy Cottages are most moved by sense, so the Omnipotent Creator makes choice of these strange Exhalations, as the most effectual means to work on our external Organs, and thereby to effect our otherwise insolent and audacious minds with a just awe and terror of his Majesty. For although the conception and Idea of a Deity be a Celestial Fire so natural burning in our Souls, as that like the stone *Asbestos* it is not to be quenched, yet by the Atheistical endeavours of terrene and Voluptuous men, it may so far be smothered, as not to manifest it by any Visible Flame, but the effects of his Power are so moving, and violently forcible, that when God is pleased to utter his Voice in Thunder, or Attacque our Desperadoes hearts in Mountains of Briny Liquor, and roar his Greatness in their Ears, with the violent gusts of Tempestuous winds, attended with the horrid Flames spit out of fiery Hurricanes, or the astonishing Yells Ecchoed from the Bowels of the Quaking Earth; Is not the stoutest Atheist in such a time that will not bate of his courage,

rage, and in ſpight of his deſperate Principles, eat his own words, and in horror and trembling confeſſe that Power, which other times he not only denies, but with Oaths and Damees would Hector out of the world, That Rhodomantado of Atheiſm. *Caius Caligula*, though in his Pride he could have the Arrogance to ſtile himſelf the Lord God *Caligula*, and once in a Huffing Pet could challenge his great God *Jupiter* into the Field, yet when it Thundred, his Gyant courage ſhrunk into a Mouſe-hole, for then in a pittiful fear he would creep under a Bed from Shelter, and confeſs himſelf as he was indeed a man. Therefore, however ſuch things may truly be attributed to ſecond cauſes; yet both from Scripture and their own Nature, we may be well aſſured, that they are Inſtruments which God oftner uſes in an Extraordinary manner than any others, and which in their firſt deſignment ſeem peculiarly levelled at thoſe men, and their bold thoughts, who would firſt only Droll the world out of conceit of his Power, that they may as they think, the more pleaſantly Huff him out of his Throne. In ſuch an Age then, when not only Profaneneſs is Rampant, but Atheiſm its ſelf is ſo Predominant, as to have obtained the Reputation of wits for thoſe, as convicted by the Law of Nations for Monſters of Mankind, the whole world adjudged to the Fire; It cannot be ſtrange if Omnipotence for its own Vindication, has ſo viſibly ſtretched forth its Arm by many late, ſtrange, and unuſual Marks of Power in almoſt all the Elements, given us ſuch ſufficient Proofs, that if we ſlight theſe, we may expect that he will ſhortly write to us in *Belſhazzars* Characters.

ders. For still we see one Prodegy succeeding on the Neck of another, and as you will hear by the following known Relation, we are called still from one strange accident to behold another. As wickedness has been some times more eminently prevalent at some times than at others, so in several Ages, at such times, we have answerable notices of Gods Anger in effects of like Nature. Thus in the wicked Reign of *Tiberius*, in whose time Christ was Crucified, several of the most flourishing Cities of *Asia* were either totally swallowed by Earthquake, or destroyed by Tempest. And the City of *Constantinople* in the time of the *Gothik* War, was so prodigiously afflicted this way, that Historians tell us that the strange kinds of Noises, Thunder, Whistling, Howling, Crackling that were heard then, were Incredible. Infancy are the examples of these times, but to come nearer, In the Reign of our Queen *Mary*, in her 5th Year, within a Mile of *Nottingham*, so violent a Tempest of Thunder happened that it beat down all the Houses and Churches thereabouts, cast the Bells to the outside of the Church-yard, and some webs of Lead four Hundred foot into the Field wrethen like Leather, (The River of *Trent* running between the two Towns) The water with the Mud in the bottom, was carried a quarter of a Mile, and cast against Trees, with the violence whereof the Trees were pulled up by the Roots, and cast 12. score foot.

In our Nebouring Country of *Holland*, on the second of *August* new stile, being our 21. of *July*, there hapned a most horrible Tempest which lasting in some parts about an hour, in some longer, and in some not half

half the time, in that ſhort ſpace did in all parts ſuch incredible ſpoil and miſchief, that the like hath been ſeldom heard of; to paſs by the more minute particulars which are too tedious to mentiou, we ſhall only give you a brief account of what hapened at *Utrecht* and *Amſterdam*. It is deſcribed to have been a moſt violent and unuſal Hurricane, in which the Heavens all the time by the continual Lightning Ayr and curled all ore with Flames, not unlike what is mentioned commonly in Almanacks to have happened not many years ſince in *England*, the noiſe of the Thunder, and roaring of the Wind, was ſo far above what is uſual, that it extreamly terified the hearers, but was more ſadly dreadful, when they not only heard, but many to their coſt felt its Rage, by the horrible ſhaking and fall of Houſes Steeples, and other Buildings; of which it ſpared no ſort, but ſeemed to threaten to bury them all in one heap of Rubbiſh. In *Utrecht* the Cathedral Church called the *Dome*, in leſs than a quarter of an hour, with all ſtately Pillars was utterly Ruined; all but the Steeple, which remains untoucht, the high and coſtly Steeple of St. *James* Church, with the Steeples of moſt of the other Churches there, are thrown to the Ground: and all the Houſes were ſo far involved in this general Convulſion, that ſcarce fifty Houſes remain in that great City, but wear the the marks of its Fury.

In *Amſterdam*, it laſted but half an hour, but the force of the Thunder, Lightning, Wind and Hail in that time, was prodigious. Chimneys, tops of Houſes, and Houſes themſelves, were in great numbers blown down, and moſt Trees blown down, many of which were

were carryed a great distance from their former Places; the Ships that lay there before the Pals brake loose, of which about half a score were overset, many people were blown into the Water, and many killed by the fall of Trees and Houses, about thirty Mills there were blown down to the ground, and those escaped are much damnified; Five Waggons coming from *Arnheim* with Passengers, were overturned, and most of the persons killed or spoiled.

Lastly, to conclude, its fury extended so far, as to force above 20 Ships on Shore in the *Texel*, and its dammage and Terror is related by sufferers to have been above what my weak Pen or a more fluent Tongue can express. Thus you have a Relation of it, you see how loudly in Signs and Wonders, in Storm and Thunder, God calls to Earthly Mortals, let not your Ears be deaf, but make some use of it. It is Chronicled that in the time of our victorious *Edward* the third, being in *France* and ready to fall upon the French Army, then just by him, there happened such a terrible Storm and Tempest of Thunder and Lightning, that that couragious Warriour being affrighted with it, as taking it to be a sign that God was displeased at that cruel War, he took an Oath presently to make Peace on any reasonable condition, which he accordingly performed.

FINIS.